



A N N U A L R E P O R T F O R

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TO

THE EVESHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

BY

J. J. MURRAY, M.B.,D.P.H.

(District Medical Officer
of Health).

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1943.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the health of your District.

CHIEF STATISTICS.

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	126	140	266
Illegitimate	12	7	19
	138	147	285

<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	6	9
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	3	6	9

Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 18.7 (1939) 15.6

S.B. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 30.6 45

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	105	98	203

Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 13.4 (1939) 12.4

Deaths from Puerperal causes: Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Puerperal Sepsis	1	3.4
Other Puerperal causes	-	-
Total	1	3.4

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under one year	6	3	9

Death-rates of infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	31	(1939) 26
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	28	27
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate " "	53	-

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	26	31
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-	-

Comparison with some of the figures for the whole country is as follows:-

	<u>England & Wales</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>(1939)</u>
Birth-rate	16.5	18.7	15.6
Death-rate	12.1	13.4	12.4
Infant Mortality Rate	49	31	26

Although, with the exception of the Birth-rate, the figures for the present year compare adversely with those of 1939, the Infant Mortality Rate and the Birth-rate contrast with the national figures to the advantage of the district.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following table gives the causes of death during 1943:

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	1	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Influenza	3	5	8
Measles	-	-	-
Ac.Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis	-	-	-
Ac.Infectious Encephalitis	-	-	-
Cancer - Total cases	15	11	26
Cancer of Bucc.cav. & Oesoph(M) Uterus(F)	1	-	1
Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	2	1	3
Cancer of breast	-	1	1
Cancer of all other sites	12	9	21
Diabetes	-	1	1
Intra-Cranial Vascular lesions	13	15	28
Heart disease	25	21	46
Other Dis. of Circulatory System	3	4	7
Bronchitis	9	8	17
Pneumonia	2	-	2
Other resp. diseases	2	1	3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	1	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-
Appendicitis	1	-	1
Other digestive diseases	2	3	5
Nephritis	5	1	6
Puerperal & Post-abortion. Sepsis	-	1	1
Other maternal causes	-	-	-
Premature birth	3	1	4
Con.mal., Birth inj., Inf.Dis.	1	1	2
Suicide	-	1	1
Road traffic accidents	2	1	3
Other violent causes	3	1	4
All other causes	11	19	30
TOTALS	105	98	203

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Isolation Hospital accommodation facilities are poor throughout the county.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supplies.

Of a total of 4,488 houses, 3,638 have a piped water supply, leaving 850 to be provided for in the post-war period. If the

arrangements with Coventry Corporation are brought to fruition it would mean that a very considerable proportion of these houses would be provided for.

The water supply of this district is obtained from various springs on nearby hills, the analyses of which are consistently good, but on the other hand, the results of well water examinations vary considerably. A scheme is in existence by which after the war, the district will be adequately supplied.

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal.

Arrangements have been made (1944) for a district survey to be carried out by a Consulting Engineer to the Council with a view to adequately serving the district.

HOUSING.

Plans for housing have already been outlined, but must of necessity remain in abeyance for the time being. Eight houses are being erected under the War-time Scheme for occupation by agricultural workers.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Duties under the Food and Drug Acts 1928-38 are carried out by the Inspector of Weights & Measures. Sanitary Inspectors can also take samples under the Acts.

All dairies and slaughterhouses are under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector, by whom they are visited periodically.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1943.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	13	4	-
Diphtheria	4	4	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Pneumonia	11	-	2
Dysentery	30	8	1
Measles	70	-	-
Whooping Cough	16	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Anterior polio-myelitis	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	-

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES CASES (OTHER
THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1943.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Cerebro-Spinal Fever
Under 1 year	-	1	-	-	2	2	1	8	-	-
1 - 2 years	1	-	-	-	-	8	9	3	-	-
3 - 4 "	1	1	-	-	-	3	8	1	-	-
5 - 10 "	8	1	-	-	2	1	40	3	-	-
11 - 15 "	3	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	-
16 - 20 "	-	-	-	-	-	6	4	-	-	-
21 - 35 "	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-
36 - 45 "	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
46 - 65 "	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	1	-
66 and over	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	1	1	-
TOTALS	13	4	-	1	11	30	70	16	2	1

DIPHTHERIA.

Four cases were notified during the year, all affecting one family. Two children had been immunised. These persons contracted the disease whilst on a visit to another town. An adult carrier was found in the receiving household.

INFLUENZA.

A widespread epidemic occurred during the months of November and December. Although the majority of the cases were of a moderate nature, seven deaths occurred, two of them being children under one year of age, and the remainder of persons of advanced years.

WHOOPING COUGH & MEASLES.

There were 16 cases of whooping cough and a large number of measles cases, 70 in all. There were no deaths.

DYSENTERY.

An epidemic occurred in mid-summer affecting a village community in which there were 30 notified cases and one death (in an elderly female). There were doubtless many slight cases where medical aid was not sought. Several children and staff in a Nursery were involved. The Sonne bacillus was the type found on laboratory examination. One carrier was discovered, a milker on the farm which supplies the greater part of the village. She was excluded from this activity, and shortly afterwards, the

disease subsided, but the fact that only one of the children, attending the local school - where this milk (not pasteurised) is supplied - was attacked, precluded definite conclusions being drawn.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

One case was notified during the year, and one death took place which had not been notified.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The table below gives the total number of children immunised during the year together with the number immunised since the inception of the scheme till the end of the present year:

	<u>0 - 4 years</u>	<u>5 - 14 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
1943	204	184	288
1940 - 1943 (inc.above)	854	1495	2349
Estimated % of total child population immunised	71	67	Average 69

These figures do not take into account the number of children immunised privately, which are difficult to estimate, but which are known to be large. If a further 5% is allowed for this, it indicates that approximately 74% of the children in this area are now protected, a very gratifying figure. Acknowledgments are due to the Principals of schools and the local District Nurse for their interest and help.

Public Health statistics for a small population can often be misleading and the safest criterion is to look at figures for the country as a whole. Mr. Henry Willink, the Minister of Health, has just given those national figures to Parliament. He states that the number of notified cases of diphtheria in this country fell from 50,000 in 1941 to 34,000 in 1943. Equally important is the fact that deaths from diphtheria fell from 2,641 in 1941 to 1,370 in 1943. Both the figures for 1943 are the lowest ever recorded. By the end of 1943, half the child population of the country had been immunised. It is estimated that in the two years 1942-43, about 5 out of every 6 children contracting diphtheria had not been immunised. As far as deaths were concerned, 29 out of every 30 children who succumbed to the disease had not been immunised. Broadly speaking, this indicates that if a child is immunised it is six chances to one that it will not take diphtheria, and 30 chances to one that it will recover from it if it should unfortunately contract this infectious disease. It must be borne in mind that at one time the number of fatal cases from this very serious disease was high.

From local and national experience the Evesham Rural District Council are convinced that their immunisation campaign has been fully justified both as regards the individual and the community. They are satisfied that immunisation greatly reduces the risk of a child catching diphtheria, and if he does contract it, the risk of its proving fatal is tremendously reduced compared with the risk to an unimmunised child.

In these circumstances I have been requested to maintain the free immunisation service among young school-

children and children of pre-school age, and the Council hope that the campaign will continue to receive the support of the parents.

SCABIES.

Arrangements continue with the County Council whereby cases are admitted to their institutions at a flat rate irrespective of the length of stay. 14 cases were treated under this scheme. On the whole the disease has not been so prominent as in former years.

One school was closed during the year owing to Influenza.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table gives particulars of the 13 new cases of Tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease in the area during 1943:

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
5 - 14 "	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 "	2	2	1	-	1	1	-	-
25 - 34 "	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	5	3	4	1	2	1	1	1

Number of deaths from non-notified Tuberculosis Nil

Total number of Tuberculosis deaths 5

In general it may be said that the health of the district is satisfactory having regard to the abnormal circumstances.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. J. MURRAY.